

SECRET

2 April 1947

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, ICAPS:**

**SUBJECT: Preliminary Screening of Rosenberg Library Collection at Offenbach.**

1. Information at hand indicates that the so-called "Rosenberg Collection" now being held at Offenbach, pending shipment to the USSR, contains a large quantity of documents of social, political and psychological warfare value. According to Mr. Boris I. Nicolaevsky, Director of the American Labor Research Institute, Rosenberg founded his Institute for the study of the theories and practices inimical to Nazism. First consideration was given to Bolshevism. He was empowered to confiscate libraries, archives and private collections in German occupied countries in order to obtain material of interest.

2. The Commanding General of USFET has advised that 80% of this collection has been returned to rightful owners. Of the remainder, commitments have been made to send 300,000 volumes to the USSR. Seventy-five thousand volumes have already been sent. Information, dated 13 March from Mr. C. Office of the Office of the Political Adviser, USFET, states that Army authorities have agreed to hold up shipment of the remainder to the USSR pending further investigation.

3. Mr. G. F. Kennan, Deputy for Foreign Affairs, National War College, has stated in a letter to the Director of Central Intelligence on this subject that he feels that the removal of this collection to the United States is highly desirable in the interests of the future intelligence effort of the Government. Further, [redacted], USN, USSR Section of ORE, has indicated his belief that this collection is of great value to CIC and that steps should be taken to exploit it.

50X1

4. There is at present a project awaiting presentation to the Projects Review Committee dealing with the screening and abstracting of political, social and psychological warfare documents in repositories here and abroad. This project was initiated by the IAB and shows the interest of the IAB agencies in obtaining information of this type. On the assumption that NIA approves the above-mentioned project, the screening of the Rosenberg Library could become a part of it. Documents Branch, Office of Operations, would be, then, the logical unit to coordinate the screening of the Rosenberg Library with that of other captured document repositories. The preliminary screening should be coordinated with ORE so that accurate evaluation of this material to them would also be forthcoming. Captain [redacted] now in Moscow, could, if directed, go to Offenbach to make initial arrangements and meet OO representative there to begin preliminary screening. Steps should therefore be taken immediately to effect at least this preliminary screening.

50X1

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum for the Chief, ICAPS.

2 April 1947

5. It is believed that screening by representative sampling of 50% of the collection should provide adequate information and statistics for evaluation of the worth of the collection to intelligence and as a basis for decision on removal of the collection to the United States and/or abstracting of documents of intelligence value at Offenbach. It is felt that one competent Russian linguist could accomplish this in three months time. This would require his scanning approximately 1,500 books a day.

6. An estimate of the maximum cost to CIC for this preliminary screening would be \$3,106.00.

7. It is recommended that:

A. Attached estimate for project of sending a Documents Branch scanner to Offenbach be presented for approval to the Projects Review Committee.

B. Attached cable be sent to Mr. C. Offie at Frankfurt requesting Rosenberg Collection be kept intact pending arrival of [ ] and OO representative. 50X1

C. Attached cable be sent to [ ] directing him to proceed to Frankfurt to meet OO representative there as soon as he can be released from Moscow. 50X1

D. OO be directed to implement the project in collaboration with ONE.

[ ]  
Brigadier General, USA  
Assistant Director for Operations 50X1

Inclosures

Tab A, B, and C.

2 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE:

SUBJECT: Preliminary Screening of Rosenberg Library at Offenbach.

1. It is proposed that there be undertaken a preliminary screening of Russian language documents in the Rosenberg Library being held in Offenbach. This screening would provide detailed information which could be used as a basis for (1) evaluation of the worth of this collection to CIG and (2) decision by CIG as to further steps to be taken toward exploitation.

2. There are approximately 225,000 Russian documents in this collection which has been marked for shipment to the USSR. It is believed that a linguist/scanner by representative sampling of 50% of this collection could, in three months time, provide the information desired.

3. Detailed maximum cost estimate is attached. If proposed project for Exploitation of Enemy Document Repositories, now awaiting action by the Projects Review Committee, is approved, cost estimated for that project will cover expenses for screening of Rosenberg Collection proposed here.

4. [ ] ORE, has indicated that this collection is probably 50X1  
of great value to CIG. Information at hand shows that it comprises publications confiscated from libraries and private collections from all the German occupied countries. It is understood that it contains, moreover, many official Soviet documents, both party and government. If steps are not taken immediately to ascertain its worth to the intelligence effort of this Government, the collection will be shipped to the USSR. It seems imperative that at least this preliminary screening should be done so that future action may be guided by fact and resultant need.

[ ] 50X1  
Brigadier General, USA  
Assistant Director for Operations

Inclosure  
Cost estimate.

Estimate of Maximum Expenditures  
for Preliminary Screening of Rosenberg Collection

A. Personnel

1 - P-5, linguist/scanner

B. Salary (3 months) \$1,476.

C. Travel 1,000.

D. Living expenses 630.  
(\$7 per diem)

Total \$3,106.

~~SECRET~~

Cable to Mr. C. Office

TO: C. Office, Office of the Political Adviser, HQ., USFET

Request Rosenberg Collection be held in tact pending arrival of CIC  
representative,  USN, now in Moscow. Advise probable  
duration of retention.

50X1

~~SECRET~~

*Sub "b"*

**SECRET**

Cable to

50X1

TO:  Moscow, USSR

50X1

Temporary retention Rosenberg Collection in effect pending your arrival.  
Request you proceed to Frankfurt and discuss possibilities with C. Office  
of the Office of Political Adviser as soon as you can be spared in Moscow.  
Advise BTA Frankfurt and CIG screener will meet you Frankfurt.

CHIEF, INTERDEPARTMENTAL X

X ASSTDIRECTOR, OPERATIONS

3 Apr 47

Received the attachments listed below:

—  STAT

Attached hereto is memorandum with inclosures on the subject of the Rosenberg Collection along with papers on the same subject forwarded to this office by ICAPS.

ATT: Memo, 2 Apr., w/incls.  
Rtg slip fr Dep Dir w/draft letter to Mr. Kennan; Memo 2-13-47; Memo fr WDGS-ID 1-23-47; CM-IN-4093; Memo 1-10-46; Memo 12-30-46 w/incls;